



MCDHH NEWS

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Missouri Commission for the
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MCDHH 2004 Legislative Priority Wrap-up

The 2004 legislative session was a busy one for MCDHH. We had five legislative priorities for this year, and we were successful in getting bills introduced that would have satisfied four of those priorities. Unfortunately we were unable to get a bill introduced that would have satisfied our fifth priority, namely, enacting into law a requirement that all electronic visual educational media sold or distributed in Missouri, or used in Missouri classrooms, must be either open or closed captioned.

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Regrettably, the bills concerning three of our priorities met quick deaths this year; they all died in the committees to which they were assigned. HB 1459 would have mandated real-time captioning of local news on all Missouri television stations. HB 816 would have given students in educational institutions credit for taking ASL classes, allowed them to earn ASL credit by proficiency, and allowed them to use ASL to satisfy "foreign language" or "language arts" admission and graduation requirements. HB 936, and its companion bill SB 705, would have mandated hearing aid coverage for dependent children by all insurance companies doing business in Missouri.

Our last legislative priority for this year was to amend the law [494.425(5) RSMo] that disqualifies a deaf person from sitting on a petit or grand jury if they are "unable to read, speak and understand the English language." This law discriminates against Missouri citizens who were born deaf, have American Sign Language as their native language, and never learned to "speak" English. This requirement is clearly discriminatory, contrary to federal law, inconsistent with other Missouri law [476.753(1), RSMo], and disqualifies many otherwise eligible Missouri citizens from performing their civic duty. HB 1213 was introduced containing language that would have allowed deaf persons to serve on grand and petit juries with auxiliary aids and services, even if they couldn't "speak" English. The jury eligibility language from HB 1213 was tweaked during committee considerations and rolled into an omnibus bill, SB 1211, which passed on the next to the last day of the legislative session. That bill says that a person is ineligible to serve on a petit or grand jury unless such person's inability is due to a vision or hearing impairment which can be adequately compensated for through the use of auxiliary aids or services.

Like most things in the legislative process, the passage of this statutory amendment took several years. But MCDHH is pleased that the discriminatory law prohibiting petit or grand jury service by deaf persons in Missouri who do not speak English has finally been eliminated.

Provisional Certificate in Education

In the final days of the 2004 legislative session, MCDHH was largely focused on all of the proposed legislation regarding interpreters in education. There were several bills containing language that concerned educational interpreters, and there were many changes in those bills during the last hours of the legislative session. In fact, the final outcome regarding educational interpreters was not absolutely certain until several days after the session ended. The passage of SB 968 on the last day of the legislative session created a Provisional Certificate in Education, which will allow interpreters to work in preschool, elementary and secondary school settings without an Intermediate Certification – but only for a limited period of time. SB 968 has been signed by the Governor and will become effective August 28, 2004. The specific language is as follows:

“209.321.8. (1) The board for certification of interpreters shall grant a provisional certificate in education for any applicant who meets either of the following criteria:

(a) The applicant possesses a current valid certification in the Missouri interpreters certification system at either the novice or apprentice level and holds a valid license to provide interpreting services; or

(b) The applicant has submitted an application for certification in the Missouri interpreters certification system and an application for an interpreting license pursuant to sections 209.319 to 209.339 and has taken the written test and performance test or attests that he or she will complete the certification and licensure applications and take the written test within sixty days following the date of application for a provisional certificate in education and will complete the performance test within sixty days following passage of the written test.

(2) The board shall issue the provisional certificate in education within ten business days following receipt of a complete application.

(3) A provisional certificate issued under paragraph (a) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be valid for a term of three years and shall be renewed by the board, upon request by the certificate holder, for one additional term of three years if the certificate holder is reevaluated during the first term of issuance and achieves a higher level of certification in the Missouri interpreter certification system.

(4) A provisional certificate issued under paragraph (b) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be valid for one year and shall be renewed, upon request by the certificate holder, pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection if the certificate holder is reevaluated during the term of issuance and achieves a certification in the Missouri interpreter certification system. Such renewed certificate shall be subject to the term length and renewal provisions of subdivision (3) of this subsection.

(5) A provisional certificate in education shall be limited to providing interpreters services in preschool, elementary and secondary school settings or as allowed by any other valid Missouri certification or license held by the individual.

(6) A provisional certificate in education may be revoked by the board if the person makes any misrepresentations or fails to fulfill any commitment made pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, or violates the provisions of section 209.317 or 209.334 or breaks any of the ethical rules of conduct for interpreters as established by state rule or fails to obtain the necessary continuing education credits required for certification maintenance. ”

MCDHH wishes to thank everyone who sent letters, faxes and e-mails to legislators in support of our efforts to reach an acceptable compromise regarding the certification and licensing of educational interpreters in Missouri. Your efforts are greatly appreciated, and most definitely helped to influence the final result.

New E-mail Addresses for MCDHH Staff

The entire state e-mail system is in the process of being changed from the older MS Mail to Microsoft Exchange. Those changes are now complete at the MCDHH office, and here are the new e-mail addresses for the MCDHH staff:

Roy.Miller@mcdhh.mo.gov	(Roy Miller, Executive Director)
ExecDir@mcdhh.mo.gov	(Executive Director of MCDHH)
MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov	(E-mail sent to this address will be directed to the appropriate staff member.)
Mary.Sheridan@mcdhh.mo.gov	(Mary Sheridan, Executive Secretary)
Kandice.Allee@mcdhh.mo.gov	(Kandice Allee, Executive Assistant/Staff Interpreter)
Amy.Fowler@mcdhh.mo.gov	(Amy Fowler, MICS Coordinator)
Kim.Davis@mcdhh.mo.gov	(Kim Davis, Workshop/Training Specialist)
Ameir.Smith@mcdhh.mo.gov	(Ameir Smith, Senior Secretary)

Coming Soon: Silver Dollar City

Mark your calendars! The 4th annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Weekend at Silver Dollar City is set for September 11, 2004. Deaf and Hard of Hearing patrons will receive free admission. Come one; come all! And enjoy the interpreted shows, the arts and crafts, lots of "down home" music, and the unmatched splendor of one of the most gorgeous theme parks in America -- all amidst the beauty of the Missouri Ozarks. Hope to see you there.

2004 MCDHH Exhibits

MCDHH staff has enjoyed exhibiting at several conferences during the past few months. Conferences at which MCDHH has exhibited include, the Missouri Speech-Language-Hearing Association Conference, Kansas Association of Interpreters Conference and Pathways to Student Success Conference. Exhibiting at these conferences allows us to disseminate information about MCDHH programs, as well as to collect information concerning products and services of other organizations to bring back and share.



*Kim Davis
Workshop/Training Specialist*

Deaf Public Member Appointed to SCI

On November 13, 2003, Governor Bob Holden announced the appointment of Lisa Betzler of Ballwin as a deaf public member of the Missouri State Committee of Interpreters. The State Committee of Interpreters has the responsibility for promulgating rules governing the licensing of interpreters in Missouri, issuing and renewing interpreter licenses, investigating complaints against interpreters, and penalizing licensed interpreters when appropriate. Betzler received an Associate Degree in General Education from Florissant Valley Community College, and later earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Maryville University. Betzler formerly worked for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, and is currently an assistant professor in the Deaf Communication Studies/Interpreter Training Program at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley. Betzler is certified by the American Sign Language Teacher Association (ASLTA) and teaches classes in ASL, Deaf History and Culture, Fingerspelling, and ASL Semantics. She has been a signing actress, director and consultant for the Florissant Valley Theatre of the Deaf for many years. The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is extremely pleased that a deaf person has finally been appointed to the State Committee after so many years of that committee being without the input from a deaf member. MCDHH congratulates Ms. Betzler on her appointment and wishes her much success with her new responsibilities.

Call For Nominees For MCDHH Lifetime Achievement Awards

Three years ago the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing began a new program of honoring individuals who had provided services to Missourians with hearing loss for a long number of years by presenting its first-ever "Lifetime Achievement Awards." This year we are again asking for assistance in identifying worthy persons to consider for these awards. Any Missouri resident may nominate a person to receive an MCDHH Lifetime Achievement Award, and the criteria and procedures for doing so are as follows:

1. MCDHH Lifetime Achievement Awards shall be given periodically by the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to one or more persons that it deems worthy of the honor.
2. MCDHH Lifetime Achievement Awards shall be given for outstanding service over a significant portion of one's lifetime to Missourians who are deaf or hard of hearing.
3. No person shall be eligible to receive an MCDHH Lifetime Achievement Award more than once during their lifetime.
4. Any Missouri resident may nominate a person to receive an MCDHH Lifetime Achievement Award. They may do so by sending the name of the nominee, current contact information for the nominee (mailing address, telephone number, and email address if known), a statement of why they think the nominee deserves the award, and a brief resume or biographical sketch of the nominee to the Executive Director of the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
5. To be considered to receive an MCDHH Lifetime Achievement Award in a given year, the nomination must be received in the MCDHH office no later than September 1st of that year. All nominations received after September 1st shall be considered during the following year.

If you know of anyone that you feel is worthy of a "Lifetime Achievement Award" for their services to deaf and hard of hearing Missourians, please contact the MCDHH Executive Director and nominate that person.

MCDHH Attends SHHH Conference

Dr. Roy Miller and Kim Davis of the MCDHH staff attended the recent Annual Conference of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People in Omaha, Nebraska. Workshops at the SHHH Conference concerned topics such as self advocacy, hearing aid compatibility, cochlear implants, speechreading, media captioning, and hearing dogs. Special features of the conference included an opening presentation by Jim Fowler, former host of Mutual of Omaha's "Wild Kingdom", a presentation by Ricky Smith, a deaf professional mime, entitled "Silence Speaks Louder Than Words," a book signing by Rocky Stone, the founder of SHHH, over forty exhibitors, and a research symposium that focused on "The Inner Ear." Attendance at the SHHH Conference was a part of our ongoing efforts to collect and provide information relevant to all persons with hearing loss.

MCDHH Participates in SCI Town Hall Meeting

MCDHH was pleased to attend a Town Hall meeting hosted by the Missouri State Committee of Interpreters (SCI) in Springfield on June 16, 2004. There was a sizable turnout from the deaf and interpreting communities to listen to the presentation and receive answers to their questions about licensure. There were several important concerns raised by deaf attendees, one of which stressed the need for community education concerning the laws about interpreters. All too often doctors and hospitals either fail to provide interpreters, or provide unqualified interpreters. Unfortunately, this is a difficult situation that Missourians face throughout the state. There are many areas where community education about deafness and interpreters is continually needed.

Michael Boyd Appointed to Commission

MCDHH is pleased to announce that Governor Bob Holden has appointed Michael Boyd to the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Boyd is currently an ASL Instructor in the Hazelwood School District; a GED/Literacy Instructor at the St. Louis Adult Education and Literacy Learning Center, and a substitute teacher for the Special School District of St. Louis County. Boyd earned an associate's degree from St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, and he received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Rochester Institute of Technology. Boyd is a member of the Missouri Association of the Deaf (MoAD), the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), TDI (formerly known as Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc.), and the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA). Boyd also serves as a school board member for the St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf. The MCDHH staff welcomes Mr. Boyd to the Commission, and looks forward to working with him in our efforts to improve the lives and opportunities of Missourians with hearing loss.

Evaluator Training at Interpreters Conference

MCDHH is pleased to announce that there will be a training session for our current MICS evaluators in conjunction with the 2004 Missouri Interpreters Conference. The training will be on Friday, October 29, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, at Tan-Tar-A Resort. We are extremely fortunate to have secured the services of Dr. Marty Taylor as the trainer for this special training session. Marty Taylor, Ph.D. has been a professional sign language interpreter for over 25 years and is currently the Director of Interpreting Consolidated. She holds national certifications from the Association for Visual Language Interpreters of Canada (COI) and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf in the United States (CSC). Dr. Taylor's doctoral research focused on the development of a diagnostic assessment tool to evaluate interpretations from English into ASL. She is the author of two textbooks that are products of her dissertation: ***Interpretation Skills: English to ASL*** and ***Interpretation Skills: ASL to English***. This will be a required training session for MICS evaluators, so all evaluators should plan to attend.

CapTel Relay Services to Continue in Missouri

Starting July 1, 2004, state-of-the-art telephone technology which displays text on a screen as the voice caller speaks to someone deaf or hard of hearing will become a part of Relay Missouri under a decision reached recently by the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC). This is wonderful news for hard of hearing Missourians, and MCDHH applauds the decision of the PSC.

Called Captioned Telephone Voice Carry Over (VCO), this technology has been used on a trial basis in Missouri since February of 2003. Approximately 100 people participated in the trial. Missouri was one of the first states to use the technology on a trial basis. Utilizing voice recognition software to translate an operator's spoken word to text, the Captioned Telephone allows the user to listen and read the text of what the other party has said almost simultaneously on one standard telephone line. In contrast to this type of technology, traditional voice carry over technology utilizes manual typing to deliver the textual form of the spoken information and requires two telephone lines to deliver both the audio and text information simultaneously to a consumer.

The Missouri Assistive Technology Advisory Council is responsible for distribution of CapTel phone sets and other types of adaptive telephone equipment needed by Missourians with disabilities. To be eligible for adaptive equipment, the person must: 1) be a Missouri resident; 2) have an active telephone in their home; 3) have a certified disability preventing them from accessing or effectively using basic telephone services with standard telephone equipment; and 4) have an annual adjusted income of less than \$60,000. For more information about possibly obtaining a CapTel phone contact 1-800-647-8557 (Voice) or 1-800-647-8558 (TTY).

Changes in Licensure Requirements for Interpreters

After several years of trying, MCDHH and the State Committee of Interpreters were finally successful this year in getting a few specific statutory changes adopted that will affect interpreters. In particular, SB 968 was passed on the last day of the legislative session, and specifically provides exemption from licensing requirements in two situations:

"209.321.6. A person is not considered to be interpreting under the provisions of this section if the person is currently enrolled in an interpreter training program which has been accredited by a certifying agency and approved by the committee. The training program shall offer a degree in interpreting from an accredited institution of higher education. Persons exempted under this provision shall engage only in activities and services that constitute part of a supervised course of study and shall clearly designate themselves by a title of the student, practicum student, student interpreter, trainee, or intern."

"209.321.7. A person holding a current certification of license from another state or recognized national certification system deemed acceptable by the committee is not considered to be interpreting as defined in this chapter when temporarily present in the state for the purpose of providing interpreting services for a convention, conference, meeting, professional group, or educational field trip."

In addition, SB 1122 was passed on the next to last day of the session. SB 1122 explicitly indicates that an interpreter may be denied renewal of their license for failure to provide licensure with "satisfactory evidence of current certification." So, if an interpreter's certification lapses because of failure to obtain their required annual CEUs, licensure may deny renewal of their license.

MCDHH and NAD Conference

MCDHH will be extremely busy at the forthcoming 47th Biennial Conference of the National Association of the Deaf in Kansas City. MCDHH will co-host a meeting of the directors of state Commissions for the Deaf on Monday evening, July 5. Dr. Miller and Kim Davis will present a workshop entitled "Officer, We Can't Hear You" on Thursday, July 8, and Dr. Miller will present a workshop entitled "Is There A Place In The Deaf Community For A Late-Deafened Adult?" on Saturday, July 10. In addition, Kandice Allee and Amy Fowler will maintain the MCDHH exhibit booth throughout the conference as well as process the necessary paperwork for interpreters seeking MICS, KOAS, ACET or RID CEUs by attending workshops. We look forward to a very successful NAD Conference, and are pleased to be able to participate in such a significant manner.

Educational Interpreters Workshop

On April 2-3, 2004, MCDHH sponsored an intensive workshop at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield for interpreters working in educational settings. Presenters at the workshop were Amy Fowler, Kim Davis, and Kandice Allee of the MCDHH staff. There were approximately forty attendees from various parts of the state. MCDHH staff presented information on a variety of topics including Fingerspelling, Sign to Voice Interpreting, Conceptual Accuracy, the MICS and Testing Tips and held an Educational Interpreters Forum.



*Amy Fowler
MICS Coordinator*

2004 Empowerment Symposium

Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard Hearing will be hosting its annual Empowerment Symposium program in conjunction with the 11th Annual Missouri Interpreters Conference. The Empowerment Symposium will be held at Tan-Tar-A in the Crystal Ballroom from 9:30 AM–11:30 AM and 1:00 PM–5:00 PM on Saturday October 30, 2004. This program is free of charge for those who want to attend.

MCDHH and Deaf Mental Health Activities

For several months the Deaf Mental Health PAH Committee, co-chaired by Karin Stout and Kathy Pierce, has been working in an attempt to ensure that the Department of Mental Health provides culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services for Missourians who are deaf and hard of hearing. MCDHH has been supporting those efforts in various ways. In January Dr. Roy Miller and Kim Davis of the MCDHH staff attended the day-long workshop presented by Steve Hamerdingner concerning mental health issues for persons with hearing loss. In March, Dr. Miller met with Dorn Schuffman, the director of the Department of Mental Health, and Michael Couty, the director of the DMH Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, to explore ways that the DMH budget might be more efficiently utilized to provide mental health services to deaf Missourians. In April, Dr. Miller provided the keynote speech for the Deaf Mental Health PAH rally at the capitol building in Jefferson City, and MCDHH provided refreshments for participants in that rally. As a result of that rally, plus individual advocacy, the legislature added \$143,000 in personal service money to the FY 2005 budget of DMH with the understanding that it would be used to enhance mental health services to Missourians with hearing loss. In May, Dr. Miller, Karin Stout, and several other persons attended a meeting with the director of DMH and all of his division directors to begin discussions of how mental health services for deaf Missourians could best be improved. One outcome of that meeting was the agreement that DMH would soon hire a Director of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. This is a very positive step in the right direction, and MCDHH looks forward to working closely with DMH and Deaf Mental Health PAH in their continuing efforts to provide appropriate mental health services to Missourians who are deaf and hard of hearing.

2004 Missouri Interpreters Conference

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is proud to present the 11th Annual Missouri Interpreters Conference. The 11th Annual Missouri Interpreters Conference will be held October 29-31, 2004 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri. Over twenty-seven presentations and workshops will be offered for your professional development. The keynote presentation on Friday evening "Time for a Change, Think Outside the Box" will be given by Dr. Marty Taylor. Saturday evening will feature a book signing by Dr. Taylor, the MCDHH Awards Ceremony, and a Halloween costume party and dance. On Sunday morning, the closing presentation ("The John "Leno" Maucere Show") will be given by John Maucere, founder of Deafywood in Los Angeles, California. All workshops at the 11th Annual Missouri Interpreters Conference are approved for MICS, KOAS, and RID CEUs. Conference information can be found online at www.mcdhh.state.mo.us or by contacting Amy Fowler by sending e-mail to amy.fowler@mcdhh.mo.gov.



Legal Training Workshop

On May 22-23 MCDHH sponsored a workshop entitled "Brave New World: Role and Ethics for the Court Interpreter" at William Woods University. The workshop was presented by Carla M. Mathers, Esquire, CSC, SC:L, who is an attorney in private practice with offices in Baltimore and College Park, Maryland. Ms. Mathers received her undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, and later graduated magna cum laude from Howard University School of Law. Ms. Mathers also has an interpreting degree from the College of Southern Idaho. Ms. Mathers is a former president and vice-president of the Potomac Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. Ms. Mathers is a member of the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts' Advisory Committee on Interpreters. As both a certified interpreter and a practicing lawyer, Ms. Mathers was the perfect presenter for a workshop of this type. Ms. Mathers has given workshops on interpreting in the courtroom all around the country since 1986. This workshop was co-sponsored by the Office of State Courts Administrator, Williams Woods University Dept. of Interpreting & ASL, the RSA Region 7 Interpreting Partnership - Grant #84.160A, and Access Interpreter Referral Service.

Commission Members

Antonina Wilson, Chair
Parent of a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Child

Kathleen Alexander
Interpreter

Thomas Bastean
Dept. of Elem. & Sec. Ed/MSD

Paul Blicharz
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Org.

Michael Boyd
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Member

Darryl Douglas
Local Public School Administrator

Lisa Geier
Professional—Audiology

Leslie Hall
Business Community

Vacant
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Member

Subscribe to *MCDHH-L*

In preparation for the 2004 legislative session, we actively recruited new subscribers to *MCDHH-L* - the listserve that we use to send out timely announcements and action alerts. Our efforts were very productive as we now have about 450 subscribers to the list. And our efforts paid vital dividends as we sought and received important supportive e-mails during the hectic days at the close of the legislative session. Once again we want to encourage people to subscribe to *MCDHH-L* so that we will be an even stronger voice when the legislature opens next year. If everyone presently on the list recruits just one additional person for the list we will double our size and ensure that the deaf and hard of hearing communities are heard in the legislature in 2005. You can subscribe to the list by simply sending an e-mail to MCDHH@mcdhh.mo.gov with a subject line of "Add me to *MCDHH-L*."

Farewell to Commissioner Logan

After seven years of service, Stephanie Logan has resigned from the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Stephanie will keep busy juggling her time between serving as the executive director of the L.E.A.D. Institute, pursuing her Ph.D. degree, and raising five children. MCDHH will miss her participation. We thank her for her past contributions to the Commission, and wish her the best of everything in her future!



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